

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a liquid fuel ~~energy carrier~~ comprising:

drying a solid carbon carrier in a drying apparatus,

producing oxygen and hydrogen in an apparatus for electrolysis of water,

supplying said oxygen as a gasification agent to a gasification apparatus and

gasifying the carbon carrier in said gasification apparatus to produce a synthesis gas,

supplying said hydrogen and said synthesis gas to a synthesis apparatus and

synthesizing the liquid fuel in said synthesis apparatus from said synthesis gas, and

~~producing a synthesis gas by gasifying a solid carbon carrier in a plant which comprises at least a drying apparatus for drying the carbon carrier, a gasification apparatus for gasifying the carbon carrier and for producing the synthesis gas, a synthesis apparatus for the synthesis of the liquid energy carrier from the synthesis gas and an apparatus for the electrolysis of water for producing oxygen as gasification agent for the gasification process in the gasification apparatus and hydrogen for the synthesis process in the synthesis apparatus, and feeding at least part of off-vapor from the drying apparatus and at least part of residual gas obtained in the synthesis apparatus to the gasification process in the gasification apparatus.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising feeding carbon-containing residues from the gasification apparatus and part of the oxygen produced in the apparatus for the electrolysis of water to a combustion process in a combustion apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the solid carbon carrier is one which has a reduced heating value and is, in accordance with its starting structure, conditioned to a the required extent before introduction into the drying apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, further comprising feeding a the CO₂- and oxygen-containing offgas from the combustion apparatus as gasification agent to the gasification apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said drying is carried out to thereby produce ~~further comprising carrying out the drying process for the carbon carrier in the drying apparatus thereby to produce the off-vapor being free of incondensable components, and said the drying process is being~~ carried out in a closed system and without entraining air.

6. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, further comprising condensing in a condenser ~~the~~ off-vapor from the drying apparatus which is not fed to the gasification process in the gasification apparatus.

7. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, further comprising purifying and/or cooling the synthesis gas before introduction of the synthesis gas into the synthesis apparatus.

8. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, further comprising purifying and/or cooling the synthesis gas before introduction of the synthesis gas into the synthesis apparatus, and feeding residues from the gas purification and/or residual gas from the synthesis apparatus not fed to the gasification process in the gasification apparatus to the combustion process in the combustion apparatus.

9. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, further comprising purifying and/or cooling the synthesis gas before introduction of the synthesis gas into the synthesis apparatus, and introducing ~~the~~ waste heat obtained in the gasification process and/or the synthesis of the liquid fuel ~~energy carrier~~ and/or the combustion process and/or the gas purification and gas cooling into the drying apparatus ~~and introducing cooling into the drying apparatus.~~

10. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A plant for producing a liquid fuel ~~energy carrier~~ from a synthesis gas which is produced by gasification of a solid carbon carrier, comprising at least a drying apparatus for drying the carbon carrier, a gasification apparatus for gasifying the carbon carrier, a synthesis apparatus for the synthesis of the liquid fuel ~~energy carrier~~ from the synthesis gas, an apparatus for the electrolysis of water for producing oxygen as gasification agent for the gasification process in the gasification apparatus and hydrogen for the synthesis process in the synthesis apparatus, and a combustion apparatus which is connected to an outlet for carbon-containing gasification residues from the gasification apparatus and an oxygen outlet of the apparatus for the electrolysis of water.

11. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the gasification apparatus is connected to an outlet of the synthesis apparatus, said outlet being an outlet for a residual gas from the synthesis ~~on the synthesis~~ apparatus.

12. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, further comprising providing an apparatus for gas purification and/or cooling positioned between the gasification apparatus and the combustion apparatus and/or between the combustion apparatus and the synthesis apparatus. ~~and/or the synthesis apparatus and/or the combustion apparatus.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim [[2]] 12, wherein ~~said further comprising providing at least one~~ apparatus for gas purification and/or cooling ~~which~~ comprises a fluidized-bed apparatus with integrated steam generation and a steam outlet connected to ~~an inlet for a~~ heating steam inlet of ~~on~~ the drying apparatus.

14. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, further comprising providing a waste heat collection apparatus which collects ~~the~~ waste heat from the gasification apparatus and/or the synthesis apparatus and/or the combustion apparatus and passes it to the drying apparatus.

15. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 2, further comprising providing an outlet for off-vapor from the drying apparatus and/or an outlet for residual gas from the synthesis apparatus connected to the gasification apparatus through a device for regulating an amount of the off-vapor and/or the residual gas.

16. (New) The process as claimed in claim 2, further comprising removing ash from the combustion apparatus.